

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/780,195

Examiner

James R. Brittain

Applicant(s)

HUANG, HAN-CHING

Art Unit

3677

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to applicant's communication of October 28, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 5,2,3,6,12,13,8,4,9,10 & 11; renumbered 1-11, respectively.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

The replacement sheets of drawings were received on May 12, 2005. These drawings are acceptable.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Overbagh (US 310845) and Smetz (DE 3248789) are the closest art of record.

Overbagh (US 310845) teaches a rope fastener, B, for winding a rope, C, and a gauge, E, G, provided between the rope fastener and a second rope secured to the ring, H. In regard to claim 5, the differences are that the fastener is used on ropes rather than straps, the cylinder lacks a window with a scale along the window, the second ring lacks an indicator formed thereon for cooperation with the scale to provide a reading of the tensile force, and the joint for connecting the rod with the rope lacks a middle section pivotally connected with the rod and two terminal sections pivotally connected with the strap fastener. While Morehead (US 942006) teaches that it is desirable in a rope fastener to form the frame with a window and scale and utilize a sliding indicator and Smetz (DE 3248789) teaches that it is desirable to utilize gauges to measure strap tension, there is no suggestion to combine this art or any teaching in the art of record to further modify the device of Overbagh to provide a joint for connecting the rod with the strap wherein the joint has a middle section pivotally connected with the rod and two terminal sections pivotally connected with the strap fastener. As to claim 8, the differences are that the fastener is used on ropes rather than straps, the cylinder lacks a window with a scale along the window, the second ring lacks an indicator formed thereon for cooperation with the scale to provide a reading of the tensile force, and there is no third ring secured to the cylinder for connection with the second strap with a bolt secured to the third ring for connection with the second strap. While Morehead (US 942006) teaches that it is desirable in a rope fastener to form the frame with a

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window and scale and utilize a sliding indicator and Smetz (DE 3248789) teaches that it is desirable to utilize gauges to measure strap tension, there is no suggestion to combine this art or any teaching in the art of record to further modify the device of Overbagh so as to provide a third ring secured to the cylinder for connection with the second strap with a bolt secured to the third ring for connection with the second strap since Overbagh only provides a ring, H, secured to the rod for connection with the rope.

Smetz (DE 3248789) teaches in figure 4 a strap fastener set including a strap fastener 25 for winding a first strap and a gauge tied with a second strap 10. In regard to claim 5, the differences are that the frame is not a cylinder including a first ring secured to the cylinder with a spring in the cylinder, a rod extending past the first ring through the spring for connection with the strap fastener, a second ring secured to the rod so that it is moved relative to the cylinder so as to compress the spring against the first ring with the second ring including an indicator formed thereon and it lacks a joint for connecting the rod with the strap fastener, wherein the joint includes a middle section pivotally connected with the rod and two terminal sections pivotally connected with the strap fastener. While Smetz (GB 2021275) teaches gauge structure wherein the gauge has a cylindrical shape 1, there is no suggestion to combine this art or any teaching in the art of record to further provide a joint on the device of Smetz (DE 3248789) for connecting the rod with the strap wherein the joint has a middle section pivotally connected with the rod and two terminal sections pivotally connected with the strap fastener. As to claim 8, the differences are that the frame is not a cylinder including a first ring secured to the cylinder with a spring in the cylinder, a rod extending past the first ring through the spring for connection with the strap fastener, a second ring secured to the rod so that it is moved relative to the cylinder so as to

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compress the spring against the first ring with the second ring including an indicator formed thereon and there is no third ring secured to the cylinder for connection with the second strap with a bolt secured to the third ring for connection with the second strap. While Smetz (GB 2021275) teaches gauge structure wherein the gauge has a cylindrical shape 1, there is no suggestion to combine this art or any teaching in the art of record to further modify the device of Smetz (DE 3248789) so that there is further provided a third ring secured to the cylinder for connection with the second strap with a bolt secured to the third ring for connection with the second strap.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James R. Brittain whose telephone number is (571) 272-7065. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 5:30-2:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, J. J. Swann can be reached on (571) 272-7075. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

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system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


James R. Brittain
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3677

JRB